



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE EDITOR

THE meeting of the New York State nurses called for April 16 and 17 will be in the nature of a conference. Not "Shall we organize?" but "*How* shall we organize?" is the great question. A State society cannot be formed with an individual membership, but the nurses must organize in local clubs before the final State association can be formed. It is to determine *what* form of local organization is best that this meeting is called, and having decided that most important question, a committee to draft a constitution, to report at a subsequent meeting, can be appointed, such form of local organizations as may be decided upon to be formed in the meantime.

Arrangement will be made for delegates to register at the City Hall at one o'clock on the 16th.

This meeting should be a non-partisan deliberation of the men and women nurses of the State, with the best interests of the profession at large the point in view. This is by far the most important step undertaken by any group of nurses in the world, and we trust they may be given wisdom in proportion to the demands of the occasion.

SECTION 19 of the "Army Reorganization Bill" has become a law so quietly and so unobtrusively that it is exceedingly difficult to tell by what means this change has been brought about.

A year ago great numbers of the nursing profession were agitated over the subject of what was called the "Army Bill." The principal feature of this bill was that trained women nurses should remain permanently in the army, in times of peace as well as war, that our soldiers might have the same degree of intelligent care and skilled nursing that is provided for the poorest of our people in the cities and large towns throughout the country. An important clause in the bill was that this Nursing Corps, having become permanent, should be under the supervision of a woman, who should be a trained nurse, qualified to direct this section of the medical department of the army, subject, of course, to the control of the Surgeon-General. The final report of the "Committee to Secure by Act of Congress the Employment of Graduate Women Nurses in the Hospital Service of the United States Army" is given on another

page. This committee claims no special credit for Section 19. The conditions which are specified in this bill, making the employment of women nurses permanent and providing that the woman at the head of the Nurse Corps shall be herself a trained nurse of ability, have been in practical operation for so long a time that the bill becomes a law without attracting much attention. Unquestionably the Military Committees of the House and the Senate have been influenced by the strong expressions of opinion which they have received through different channels from organizations of nurses throughout the country. The work of the committee, although so quietly done, undoubtedly has had its influence, and we must give to Dr. McGee every acknowledgment for having upon her retirement left the conditions of her department in the army as nearly as possible in accord with the wishes of the nursing profession.

From the beginning of the war until now there has been a tendency on the part of the women of the profession to assume no responsibility for any unfavorable criticisms that have been made upon the nurses in the army, forgetting, apparently, that all of these women have received their training in the civil hospitals, and that the medical department of the army, in meeting a great emergency, had little time for thorough investigation or careful selection. This emergency period having passed, and many chaotic conditions incident to that period having been remedied, and the wishes of the women of the profession having been so carefully respected by both houses of Congress, we can no longer evade our responsibility in this matter, but must give to the woman in charge every assistance that she may require to make the Nursing Corps of our army an example for other nations to follow.

We know from excellent authority that Mrs. Kinney's appointment has been most satisfactory to those members of the Army Nurse Committee who have been untiring in their efforts to bring about this change. We feel confident that Mrs. Kinney, owing to her own experience in garrison life, will use every means in her power to exclude from the corps that class of women who, by their unwomanly conduct and lack of dignity, have given occasion for much of the criticism that we hear on the nurses of the army.

The important question for the Superintendents' Society to consider, in coöperation with Mrs. Kinney, is whether or not it is practicable to give to the nurses in training some special instruction with reference to the army service. The suggestion that provision should be made in our training-schools for such instruction was made to us some time ago by Mrs. Chadwick, the wife of Captain Chadwick, of the navy, and the time seems to us to have come when her idea might take practical form.